GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:47
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
REPORT OF EXPERT GROUP ON AIDS
Goel Shri Surendra Prakash

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted an expert Group to find out the actual number of AIDS patients and to provide relief to the states most prone to this disease ;

(b) if so, whether they have submitted their report in the matter ;

(c) if so, the details of the criteria fixed in the report for the purpose ;

(d) the names of district where special centres are proposed to be set up for treatment and prevention of this disease State-wise , and

(e) the details of the action plan of the Government to impart knowledge about AIDS to the persons and children affected by AIDS?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINSTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANIRAMADOSS)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Institute of Research in Medical Statistics and The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare routinely estimate the number of HIV/AIDS patients which is then reviewed by an Expert Committee. As per the report of the Expert Committee during the year 2004, there are an estimated 5.134 million HIV infected in the country.

(c) The criteria adopted are based on the HIV prevalence rate reported during the annual round of sentinel surveillance among general antenatal mothers and high risk groups.

(d) Based on the annual round of sentinel surveillance, 111 districts have been identified as high risk districts as placed in Annexure-I.

(e) Grants are provided to NGOs through State AIDS Control Societies, for setting up low cost Community Care Centers (10 bedded) for terminally ill AIDS persons and children. These centers provide a range of services that include peer education, counseling, nutritional care & support, nursing care, medicine for opportunistic infections, palliative care, etc. As on date 59 NGOs are implementing 63 Community Care Centers in the country. 812 Voluntary Counseling & Testing Centres (VCTCs) have been set up in almost all district hospitals in the country along with another 377 Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) centres where pre-test and post test counseling is provided.